

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00

DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

/135 W

-----170537Z 107426 /15/63

O 161740Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0299

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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USEEC

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y OMISSION OF PARA 3

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, EEC, FG

SUBJ: U.S. FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REFS: (A) STATE 133596; (B) STATE 116855; (C) A-2380 OF  
6/6/77; (D) EC BRUSSELS 5032

1. DURING JUNE 16 MEETING WITH EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR  
FOR EXTERNAL FISHERIES RAYMOND SIMONNET, MISSION OFFICERS  
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERNING EC LICENSING OF VESSELS  
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OPERATING IN FRENCH GUIANA SHRIMP FISHERY:

(A) THE USG UNDERSTANDS THAT THE EC'S DECISION TO  
ALLOCATE ONLY 65 LICENSES FOR U.S. FLAG VESSELS WAS BASED  
UPON FRENCH GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT: (1) THE TOTAL  
ANNUAL U.S. FLEET CATCH IN THE BRAZIL-GUIANAS SHRIMP  
FISHERY IS APPROXIMATELY 3000 METRIC TONS; (2) OF THIS

TOTAL, APPROXIMATELY 1300 METRIC TONS ARE TAKEN IN FRENCH GUIANESE WATERS; AND (3) THE AVERAGE ANNUAL CATCH PER U.S. FLAG VESSEL IS APPROXIMATELY 60 TONS. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF WHETHER THESE FIGURES REFLECT HEADS-OFF WEIGHT OR CAUGHT WEIGHT.  
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(B) THE BEST FIGURES AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SHOW THAT THE AVERAGE ANNUAL CATCH PER VESSEL (HEADS-OFF WEIGHT) DURING THE PERIOD 1970-1974 WAS BETWEEN 23.65 AND 29.18 METRIC TONS (TABLE 5 OF REFAIR ENCLOSURE). THE TOTAL CATCH (HEADS-OFF WEIGHT) BY U.S. VESSELS INE BRAZIL-GUIANAS SHRIMP FISHERY DECLINED FROM 4,000 METRIC TONS IN 1974 TO 3,400 TONS IN 1975 (TABLE 2 OF REFAIR ENCLOSURE AND PARA 3 REFTTEL B), SO IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT THE AVERAGE PER VESSEL CATCH FOR 1975 WAS CLOSER TO THE LOWER END OF THE PREVIOUS FIVE-YEAR RANGE (ABOUT 24 TONS).

(C) TAKING AS AN EXTREME CASE A 30-TON AVERAGE CATCH PER VESSEL AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TOTAL CATCH FIGURE OF 3,000 TONS, IT WOULD SEEM CLEAR THAT AT LEAST 130 LICENSES ARE JUSTIFIED.

2. SPECIFYING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON A PERSONAL AND UNOFFICIAL BASIS, SIMONNET CONCEDED THAT TALKS WITH THE U.S., JAPAN, AND KOREA HAD GIVEN COMMISSION OFFICIALS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LICENSE CEILINGS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMUNITY (REFTTEL D) WERE TOO LOW AND THAT THE COMMISSION  
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SHOULD PERHAPS "PROCEED TO A NEW EXAMINATION."  
SIMONNET POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE THE MAY 16 REGULATION ALLOWS THE U.S. TO CONTINUE FISHING IN EC WATERS AT THE SAME MONTHLY RATE AS IN 1975 THROUGH THE END OF 1977, LICENSES FOR BRAZIL, SURINAM, JAPAN, AND KOREA ARE VALID ONLY UNTIL JUNE 30. THE COMMISSION WILL THEREFORE SUBMIT NEW PROPOSALS AT EITHER THE JUNE 21 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL OR THE JUNE 27 FISHERY COUNCIL. A WORKING PARTY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20 WILL CONSIDER WHAT NEW PROPOSALS MIGHT GO FORWARD TO THE MINISTERS, BUT SIMONNET SEES TWO POSSIBLE OPTIONS: (A) A NEW REGULATION FOR JAPAN, KOREA, BRAZIL, AND SURINAM, BUT NOT FOR THE U.S.; AND (B) ("PERHAPS BETTER") A NEW REGULATION ABROGATING THE MAY 16 REGULATION AND ESTABLISHING A LICENSING SYSTEM BASED ON MONTHLY FISHING LEVELS IN 1975, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE COMMISSION SOME FLEXIBILITY AND TIME TO REVIEW POSSIBILITIES FOR TOTAL LICENSING FIGURES AND NUMBERS OF VESSELS ON PILOT CURRENTLY IN TOULOUSE, FRANCE IN AIRBUS A300 FLIGHT SCHOOL. HE ADVISES HE HAS PERTINENT COMMENTS.

THESE WILL FOLLOW ASAP. PLS ADVISE. PONTECORVO, ACTING  
AEU-200.

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AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00  
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05  
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
/135 W

-----170518Z 107173 /12/63

O 161740Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0300  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
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AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 5, 6, & 7 PARTIALLY OR FULLY  
DELETED)

SIMONNET'S STAFF ON JUNE 17). SIMONNET URGED THAT THE  
U.S. MAKE A PARALLEL DEMARCHE ON THIS ISSUE IN PARIS PRIOR  
TO THE JUNE 20 WORKING PARTY MEETING.

4. MISSION OFFICERS POINTED OUT TO SIMONNET THAT MAY 26  
LETTER FROM DCM TO DIRECTOR GENERAL GALLAGHER SUGGESTED  
THAT THERE BE A MEETING BETWEEN U.S. AND EC SCIENTISTS TO  
REVIEW TECHNICAL DATA, ADDING THAT USG NOW WISHED TO  
PROPOSE FORMALLY THAT SUCH TALKS TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE  
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MONTH (REFTEL SIMONNET NOTED THAT HIS REQUIRED PRESENCE AT EC COUNCIL MEETINGS AND AT ICNAF WOULD PRECLUDE A TRIP TO WASHINGTON ANY TIME SOON AND DECLINED TO RESPOND TO THIS PROPOSAL IN MORE SPECIFIC TERMS. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE "HELPFUL".

5. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL A, WE NEXT RAISED QUESTION OF HOW EC VIEWED TIME, PLACE, AND FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT. SIMONNET RESPONDED THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WERE LINKED TO EC/BRAZIL TALKS ON COORDINATING CONSERVATION MEASURES WITHIN THE SHRIMP FISHING AREA; IF THE EC CAN GET AGREEMENT ON SUCH MEASURES, THAT WOULD LEAD TO AN INCREASED TOTAL SUSTAINABLE CATCH OFF FRENCH GUIANA AND WOULD PERMIT THE EC TO OFFER MORE TO THE U.S. HE SAID THE EC WILL HAVE EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH BRAZIL BEFORE THE END OF JULY AND THAT MORE WILL BE CLEAR AT THAT TIME. SIMONNET STRESSED THAT ANY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FRENCH GUIANESE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SPECIFYING THAT THERE SHOULD BE A LINK BETWEEN FISHING RIGHTS AND LANDINGS, UNDER WHICH A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THE U.S. CATCH WOULD BE PROCESSED IN FRENCH GUIANA (A VIEW WE VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED). HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS CONCEPT WAS IN LINE WITH THE CONSENSUS DEVELOPING AT THE UNCLOS.

6. MISSION OFFICER POINTED OUT TO SIMONNET THAT THE USG VIEW REMAINS THAT NO LIMITS ON SHRIMP CATCHES ARE NECESSARY SINCE THE EC HAS NOT PRODUCED ANY SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION THAT THERE IS NO SHRIMP SURPLUS IN THE FRENCH GUIANA FISHERY. SIMONNET CONCEDED THAT HIS VIEW HAS RECENTLY SHIFTED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE U.S. POSITION AND THAT HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SCIENTISTS HAD LED HIM TO THE OPINION THAT THERE IS NO REAL RISK OF OVERFISHING. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS QUESTION DEPENDS HEAVILY ON AN EC/BRAZIL CONSERVATION AGREEMENT.  
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7. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, WE RAISED WITH SIMONNET THE QUESTION OF WHAT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSES (PER REFTEL A). SIMONNET CONFIRMED THAT ONLY THOSE DATA SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 2 OF THE SHRIMP FISHING REGULATION (REFTEL D) NEED BE SUPPLIED, UT HE ADDED THAT, AFTER LICENSES ARE ISSUED, VESSELS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ON CATCHES, LANDINGS, AND AREAS FISHED.

8. COMMENT: WHILE DATA RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT AND OTHER SOURCES HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN ARGUING CASE FOR MORE LICENSES, WE BELIEVE A CLEAR OFFICIAL USG STATEMENT OF FACTS, APPLYING ONLY TO FISHING OFF FRENCH GUIANA, RE NUMBER OF BOATS, AVERAGE CATCH, TOTAL CATCH AND NUMBERS LIKELY TO BE FISHING AT ANY GIVEN TIME, WOULD HELP EVEN MORE. IF DEPARTMENT CAN SEND TECHNICAL EXPERTS AROUND EARLY JULY, WE BELIEVE EC COMMISSION MAY BE RECEPTIVE, BUT CLEAR STATEMENT OF FACTS (CONVEYED TO PARIS AS WELL) BEFORE WORKING PARTY MEETS JUNE 20 WOULD STRENGTHEN OUR CASE. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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